

A PERSONAL NOTE: Karen and I were married on Jan 2nd. Thank you for all those wishing us well.

CONVENTION-83: Raymond Edward Johnson wants to know what you'd like him to read next year at the convention. Let me know and I will relay the message... Dates are Nov 11-12 at the Holiday Inn-North in Newark. We do not have prices from Holiday Inn yet but they shouldn't be much more than last year... We are tentatively planning a Quiz Kids workshop with Ruth Duskin Fledman and Joan Bishop Barber and others. Ruth Duskin has just written a very informative book "Whatever happened to the Quiz Kids" available at most book stores. An autographed copy may be had for \$12.95 plus \$1.50 shipping (50¢ for each additional book). Send to Chicago Review Press, 213 W Istiue Pl, Chicago, Ill 60610 (312) 337-0747. Chuck Schaden wrote the forward... Other tentative workshops are about Mercedes McAmbridge run by Ron Lackman and Edgar Bergen run by Gary Yoggy in the Bergen Room... Dick Osgood suggested having a workshop featuring newscasters. All suggestions will be tossed around at our first committee meeting in March or April. If you want to actively help, let me or Joe Webb know.

IN FOND MEMORY: Dominique Dunne, Nov 4, 23; actress... Ray Draper, Nov 1, 42; jazz tuba player... Kathryn Pickman, Nov 2, 60; actress... Robert Cinader, Nov 16, 58; tv producer (ADAM 12, EMERGENCY)... Bill Baldwin, Nov 17, 69; radio and tv actor and announcer (EDGAR BERGEN SHOW)... Al Haig, Nov 16, 58; bebop pianist... Ruth Donnelly, Nov 17, 86; char. actress... Lee Patrick, Nov 25, 81; actress (tv-TOLPER)... Steve Gordon, Nov 27, 44; writer-director (ARTHUR)... Robert Coote, Nov 26, 73; Eng. char. actor... Rev. Gredy Nutt, Nov 23, 47; humorist (THE HAW)... Hugh Harmon, Nov 26, 79; creator of Porky Pig, Daffy Duck, Tom & Jerry... Marty Feldman, Dec 2, 48; well-known actor... Robert Kelljan, Nov 25, 52; film & tv director... Dan Tobin, Nov 26, 72; char. actor... Marty Robbins, Nov 8, 57; well-known singer (EL PASO)... Will Lee, Dec 7, 74; actor (SESAME STREET)... Worthington (Tony) Miner, Dec 11, 82; pioneer tv producer and director... Joey Forman, Dec 53; actor, comedian... San Theard, Dec 7, 78; veteran performer, songwriter, actor... Freeman Gosden, Dec 10, 83; Amos of AMOS AND ANDY... Arthur Rubinstein, Dec 20, 95; one of the greatest pianists of this century... Jack Webb, Dec 23, 62; star of DRAGNET... Jack Pearl, Dec 25, 88; well-known radio and stage comedian (BARON MUNCHAUSEN). Jack was at our 1973 convention... Roger Bowling, Dec 25, 39; country songwriter LUCILLE, COWARD OF THE COUNTY... Roy Webb, Dec 10, 94; musician and author... Sol Siegel, Dec 29, 79; Hollywood film producer... Harriet Parsons, Jan 2, 76; film producer... Wes Hensel, Dec 15, 65; trumpet with C Bernet and L Brown... Arthur Hughes, Dec 28, 89; Broadway, tv and radio actor (JUST PLAIN BILL)... Jack Meakin, Dec 30, 76; musical "professor" for Groucho Marx on YOU BET YOUR LIFE... Floyd Meck, Jan 3, 70; voice of BELL TELEPHONE HOUR on radio... G le Page, Jan 8, 64; actress... Tex Antoine, Jan 12, 59; tv weatherman in New York... Toni Darnay, Jan 5, 61; actress (Radio-EVELYN WINTERS, JUST PLAIN BILL)... Larry Sheen, Dec 30, 80's; actor... Doodles Weaver, Jan 15, 75; comedy singer (Spike Jones)... Shepperd Strudwick, Jan 15, 75; char. actor... Arthur Space, Jan 13, 74; veteran actor (tv-LASSIE, NATIONAL VELVET)... Arthur McLeird, Jan 12, 48; tv producer.

PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED: NARA NEWS, Autumn, article on Canadian radio, others... KASTLEMUCK BULLETIN, Nov, article on Judy Collins... RETURN WITH US NOW, Dec, article about Christmas on radio... ILLUSTRATED PRESS, Dec, article on Cass Deley... TAPE SQUEAL, Jan, continuing article on tape recorder maintenance... RETURN WITH US NOW, Jan, article on the Railroad Hour.

BOOKS: RADIO BROADCASTS IN THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS 1924-41; \$10; Write of Supt. of Documents, US Govt. Printing Office, Wash DC 20402 (Stock # 030-000-00124-9).



IF BOX IS CHECKED, \$6 IS DUE FOR ANOTHER YEAR

Lists 5100 broadcasts in chronological order 1924-Dec 31, 1941. Also fully indexed. The list was compiled by James Smart of the Motion Picture, Broadcasting and Recorded Sound Division...Bill Treadwell, author of Don Carney's UNCLE DON biography hoping for movie of same.

IOGS: Ray Stanich, 173 Columbia Hts, Brooklyn, NY 11201 has log for SASE of QUIET PLEASE 6/16/49-7/21/49 and STAGE 13 4/19/50-6/28/50.

NEW ADDRESSES: Bob Burnham, 8276 Brook Park Dr #212, Canton, MI 48187 needs a used IBM electric typewriter; also still has 2 reel decks for sale (\$150 each or best offer plus shipping); also an 8-year old Sony TC-377 which needs some mechanical adjustment and new spindles and 8-year old Sony TC-280 in good condition; both have good ferrite heads; also wants to hear from collectors with large Benny and Suspense collections and more of Nightfall series in stereo (has 7 reels already)...Andy Blatt, 803 Second St, Marietta, OH 45750.

HERE AND THERE: New Friends: Alan Salisbury, 64 Redfern Rd, Eatontown, NJ 07724...Keith Gamble, 934 Mass. Ave, Cambridge, Ma 02139...Kenneth Holloway, 314 Gober, Houston, Tx 77017...Dore Kerr, 11 Estates Pl, Dix Hills, NY 11746...Terry Salomonson, 925 Silverstone Dr, St. Charles, Mo 63301. Terry is very active at our convention and is working on a Lone Ranger book...

OLD FRIENDS: Dick Hayes, 59 Myrtle Ave, Cranston, RI 02910 still looking for a complete 60-minute Kate Smith Hour. Dick is an authority on Kate Smith and her shows and no complete 60-minute show has surfaced...Tom Price, Box 1661, Salinas, Cal 93902 has selection list for script copies of SMACKOUT and FIBBER MCGEE AND MOLLY shows (1931-38). List is 50¢ refundable with order...Clint Richards, 110 Maple St, Closter, NJ 07624 still looking for OMF reels 1952-58; also ELLERY QUEEN with Hugh Marlowe-reels from 1939-40...Larry Slavens, Box 248, Fontanella, Ia 50846 has sold half of his CTR collection. Still has about 60 Suspense reels, 25 reels of detective shows and much misc. Priced from under \$2 to \$3 a reel; also 50-80 blanks. These are Larry's original reels...Duff Campbell, Box 4371, Panorama City, Cal 91412 wants following: CBS MYSTERY THEATER (Alice; The Land of Dreams; Harry's Taxi and the T Machine; Invaders from Atlantis; and The Magic Stick 66 Manitu)...Rex Riffle, 24 Central Ave, Buckhannon, W Va, 26201 wants Lum and Abner-shows and info...Ron Lackman, RDL (78) Pleasant Mt, Pa 18453 wants ON STAGE: QUICK AS A FLASH: LEAVE IT TO THE GIRLS...Tom Sills, 24684 Tyler Dr, Sterling Hts, Mich 48077 has 330 reels; trying to complete X-1 and FIBBER MCGEE; trading on selective basis and open to round robin ideas...Mark Derang, 6701 Edgebrook Ter, Chicago, Ill 60646 wants CHICAGO RADIO THEATER "Ar-buckle's Rape" 2/23/78 and Chuck Schaden's 11/6/82 Salute to the Quiz Kids (Those were the Days)...Lawrence Rao, 1213 E 88th St, Brooklyn, NY 11236 has master reel of NBC Johnny Carson comedy radio special for trade or sale; also has ad flyers offering X-1, DIRECTION X, SHADOW of exceptional audio quality. Flyers free to those writing to him. Lawrence also has 2 1800' master reels of extremely rare broadcasts. If interested write for titles. Lawrence wants ex- quality episodes of OLD GOLD SHOW 1939-40 with Robert Benchley...Cort Parent, RFD-4, Old Compound Rd, Peekskill, NY 10566 wants copy of IBC Johnny Carson radio special (note Lawrence's offer)...Ken Piletic, 705 S Oltendorf Rd, Stream- wood, Ill 60103 wants "12th Juror" (MYSTERY THEATER) scheduled for broadcast 11/11/82...Lynn Lichty, RR2, Antwerp, OH 45813 would like readers to hang on to their radio publications such as those mentioned in FA. Lynn may want to purchase many of them in a couple of years; Lynn also wants copies of Long John Nebel Show and addresses of Don Maris, Don Fellow and Stark Maynard...Jerry Reed, 3709 River Rd, Endwell, NY 13760 wants to start an OTR Club in the Binghamton, NY area. Write if interested; also has a tape of 3 interviews of J Beckm I Allman, and R E Johnson done at the convention on cassette. Cost is \$2 to cover cost of tape and postage.



# A TRIBUTE TO FREEMAN GOSDEN; by Charles Holmes

Another link with the past, with what accurately is called the Golden Age of Radio, was lost with the death of Freeman F. Gosden, 83. Gosden passed into eternal rest Dec. 10...Even in his heyday, Mr. Gosden's name was not a household word, but the names of some of the characters he created were. His brainchild, the AMOS 'N ANDY comedy program, was one of the most popular and longest-running shows on radio. It first was broadcast coast-to-coast (as the announcers used to say with pride) in 1929. By the mid-1930s it had become a national institution. It was on the air then 5 nights a week. Stores, restaurants and bars turned their radios on at 7 p.m. to keep from losing customers. Movie theaters interrupted their showings and wheeled radios on stage so patrons could catch the latest episode.

Gosden not only wrote the show but also starred as Amos. His partner Charles Correll, who died 10 years ago, played the role of Andy. Formally they were Amos Jones and Andrew H Brown, long-time friends and operators of the Fresh Air Taxi Co. in Harlem. The program was a forerunner of what now is called sitcom but is always was in a class of its own...Freeman Gosden peopled AMOS 'N ANDY with unforgettable characters and did the voices of several himself, in addition to the role of Amos. There was George Stevens, otherwise known as the Kingfish, head of the Mystic Knights of the Sea lodge and radio's original con man. There was the slow-footed, slow-talking lawyer, Algonquin J Calhoun. There were Amos's wife, Ruby and Madame Queen and Andy's secretary, Miss Blue.

There were many other equally entertaining characters who came and went with the passing of the years - 31 years to be exact. The show went off the air in 1960 under pressure from the NAACP and other civil rights organizations which complained that the Negro dialect Gosden and Correll (both white) used was demeaning and charged that the show's format was an insult to the Negro race.

These allegations overlooked the fact that contemporary radio programs featured characters who capitalized on German or Italian accents or otherwise exploited ethnic differences. Those allegations also overlooked the fact that Amos was portrayed as a hard-working black, a loving husband and devoted father, a church-goer who believed in the basic goodness of his fellow man. His patience was sorely tried at times by Andy, his gullible partner, who was given to fancy clothes, big cigars and big ideas - but who also had a big heart when it came to small children, dogs and down-and-outers.

AMOS 'N ANDY was not funny because the characters were portrayed as blacks. It was funny because the scripts were clever, the situations humorous and the characters drawn from real life. The program did not denigrate. It looked, in a special way, at the foibles and the virtues of people and what it saw made you laugh or cry. All comedy is exaggeration, in varying degrees. AMOS 'N ANDY was no exception on that score, but it was exceptional in other ways.

It made millions, gathered around their radios in living rooms across the land, laugh in a Depression decade when there was not too much for most people to laugh about. Without ridicule, without rancor, without vulgarity it enabled listeners to escape for a few minutes each night the harsh realities of life.

Freeman Gosden and Charles Correll said time and time again they meant to hurt no one's feelings, that they had only respect for blacks. They wanted only to entertain and they did. Listening to them, laughing with them, you could let your imaginations run free, unfettered by the limitations of a 25-inch screen. AMOS 'N ANDY made the transition to television in the 1950's and lasted a few years, but the show never was quite the same as the one you heard on your Majestic radio at 7 o'clock back in the 1930s

FROM JOE WEBB, Box 268, Glen Cove, NY 11542: Convention tapes should be mailed by Feb 1st....Joe wants complete CBS Mystery Theater with no reruns....Joe is resuming trading; has 25,000 shows including new Rocky Jordan, Sam Spade, Grand Central Station. Send your catalog and your wants. Joe's catalog is in the process of being written....Joe also has BBC, CBC, So Af, sports.

FROM RON AND LINDA DOWNEY, Rt 3 Box 263H, Waynesville, NC 28786 (704) 648-5647: Collectors Corner is now GOLDEN YEARS OF RADIO AND TV. (\$10 for 4 issues a year). Those who subscribed to Collectors Corner will continue to receive GOLDEN YEARS. The first issue of GOLDEN YEARS has 50 pages, beautifully printed with many pictures and articles on OZZIE AND HARRIET and HILARY QUEEN. The Downeys now have the use of a new printing press which will result in much better looking issues. Other publications put out by the Downeys are WORLD OF YESTERDAY (\$12-6 issues); FILMS OF YESTERYEAR (irregularly printed for now); UNDER WESTERN SKIES (\$15-6 issues). starting in a month or so will be CLIFF HANGERS (\$11-4 issues). This is about movie serials. The Downeys apologize for being behind because of illness but they should be caught up by March....Nostalgia Warehouse (Joe Webb) also sells all of the above publications. Write to the Downeys for subscribing and buying.

LATE MAIL: NPR's Halloween offering was STICKS, a horror-fantasy by Karl Edward Wagner, supplied by ZBS Media and adapted for radio by Thomas Lepez; excellent reviews. More dramatic fare from ZBS will be forthcoming....Manos Nomikos, a speaker at our convention, is highly recommended for repairing all kinds of tape and video cassette recorders. Stop in at his business; studio and Electronics and Accoustices, 87W Palisade Av, Englewood, NJ 07631 (201) 894-1014. Manos also will repair by mail (not literally - just send your machine to him)....RECEIVED: KASTLEMUSICK, Jan; article on Thelonius Monk.

Hang by your thumbs and write if you get work

Jay Hickerson, Box C, Orange, Ct 06477 (203) 795-6261; 2482887

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see page 7 for more issues

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(liner notes by collector Joe Webb)

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